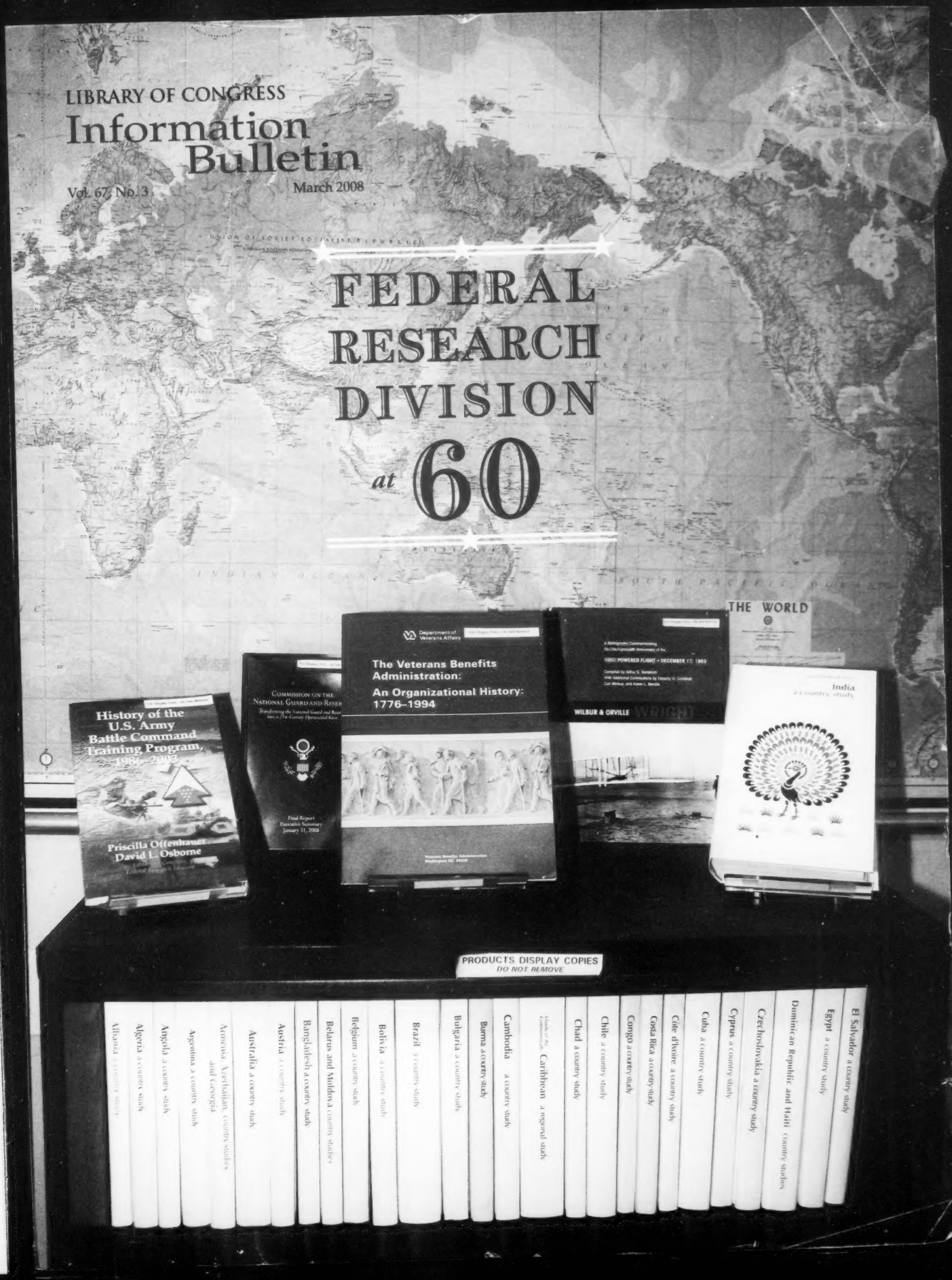
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin
Vol. 67, No. 3
March 2008
FEDERAL RESEARCH DIVISION at 60
THE WORLD
History of the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, 1986–2006
Priscilla Offenhauer
David L. Osborne
Commission on the National Guard and Reserves
Final Report
Executive Summary
January 31, 2008
Department of Veterans Affairs
The Veterans Benefits Administration:
An Organizational History:
1776–1994
WILBUR & ORVILLE WRIGHT
India
a country study
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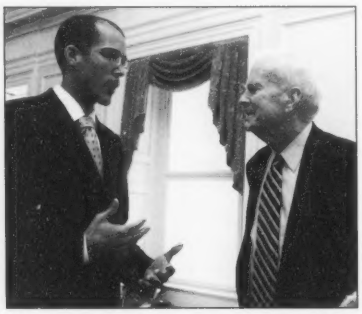
El Salvador a country study
Egypt a country study
Dominican Republic and Haiti country studies
Czechoslovakia a country study
Cyprus a country study
Cuba a country study
Cote d'Ivoire a country study
Costa Rica a country study
Congo a country study
Chile a country study
Chad a country study
Caribbean a regional study
Cambodia a country study
Burma a country study
Bulgaria a country study
Brazil a country study
Bolivia a country study
Belgium a country study
Belarus and Moldova country studies
Bangladesh a country study
Austria a country study
Australia a country study
Armenia, Azerbaijan, country studies and Georgia
Argentina a country study
Angola a country study
Algeria a country study
Albania a country study

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Information Bulletin

Vol. 67, No. 3 March 2008

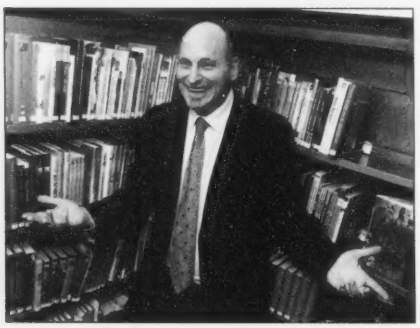
JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress



38

40

44



46

On the Cover: Over the years, the work of the Library's Federal Research Division has covered topics of interest to federal government agencies on far-ranging subjects. *Photo by Michaela McNichol*

Cover Story: For 60 years, the Library's Federal Research Division (and its predecessors) has provided research and analysis services to other government agencies on a broad array of topics. 31

Library of Congress in the News 37

Organizer, Activist, Scholar: The Library has been given the papers of civil rights leader James Forman, who organized many of the early civil rights campaigns of the 1960s, including the 1963 March on Washington. 38

Window of China: The National Library of China has begun to donate books to the Library of Congress through an innovative new program. 39

My Friend Flickr: Thousands of the Library's most popular photos are reaching a new audience of millions in a pilot test with Flickr, a photo sharing (and social networking) Web site. 40

New Views of Old Abe: Photos in the Library's collection have been newly identified as those of President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg and his second inauguration. 42

Lincoln Photos in the News 43

Fresh Verse: Poet Laureate Charles Simic introduced the 2008 Witter Bynner poetry fellows, Matthew Thorburn and Monica Youn, at a recent Library reading. 44

'Diversity Is Coming': WJLA anchorman Leon Harris delivered the keynote address for the Library's annual African American History Month celebration. 45

News from the Center for the Book 46

The Library of Congress Information Bulletin (ISSN 0041-7904) is issued 10 times a year by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the Web at **www.loc.gov/today/**.

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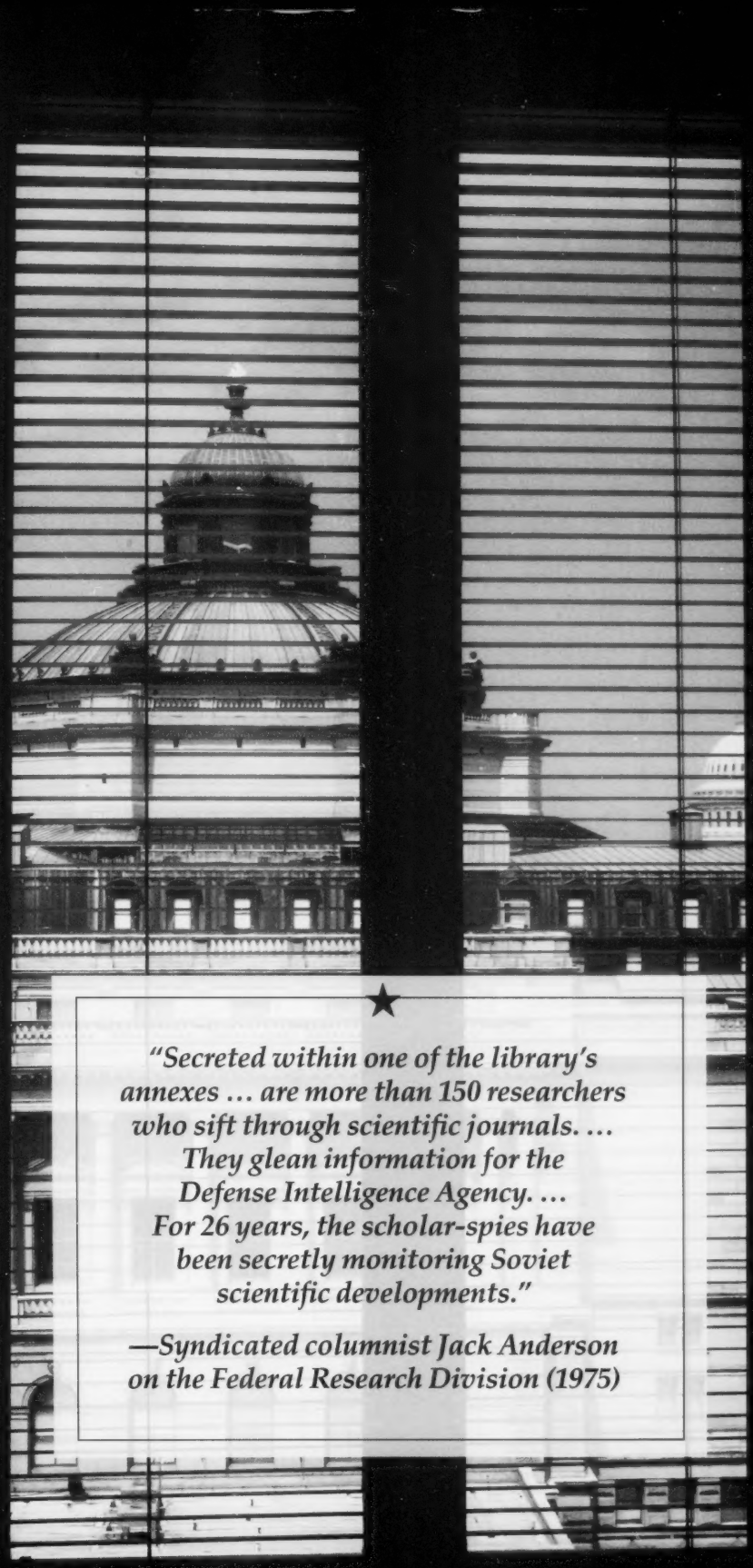


UNHERALDED *but* UNEQUALLED

Federal Research Division Celebrates 60 Years of Service

By HELEN DALRYMPLE

Sixty years have passed since the predecessor of today's Federal Research Division (FRD), the Air Research Unit, was established by Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans as part of the Library's Aeronautics Division on March 5, 1948. Its purpose, Evans said, was to provide "certain research services to the United States Air Force in connection with the collections of the Library and with other materials available to the Library."

The basic mission of FRD has not changed a great deal, although it is now more precisely defined. It states: "The Federal Research Division provides directed research and analysis on domestic and international subjects to agencies of the United States Government, the District of Columbia, and authorized federal contractors. As expert users of the vast English and foreign-language collections of the Library of Congress, the division's area and subject specialists employ the resources of the world's largest library and information sources worldwide to produce impartial and comprehensive studies on a cost-recovery basis."

It is clear from today's mission statement that FRD's client base has greatly expanded from the early days when it served only the Air Force. In 2007, for example, FRD supported 43 clients in 34 different offices in 13 cabinet-level departments and independent federal agencies, along with four internal Library of Congress offices. Eight of those were clients new to FRD; they included the National Agricultural Library, the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves and the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division, among others.

Because of its dependence on only a few defense-related agencies for many years, the history of FRD until recently has been fairly volatile—with rapid expansions of staff and workload when the agencies providing support had money to spend, and then reduced workload and layoffs of personnel when budgetary resources shrank.

"Secreted within one of the library's annexes … are more than 150 researchers who sift through scientific journals. … They glean information for the Defense Intelligence Agency. … For 26 years, the scholar-spies have been secretly monitoring Soviet scientific developments."

—Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson on the Federal Research Division (1975)

Michaela McNichol

Organizational History

The establishment of the Air Research Unit at the Library of Congress in 1948 was a move that made sense at the time, because the Library of Congress held major collections of aeronautical periodicals and technical reports, as well as captured German and Japanese aviation documents that had come to the Library after World War II. The exploitation and analysis of these unique Library collections could be valuable to the United States during the uncertainties of the emerging Cold War, and the Air Force wanted to make use of them.

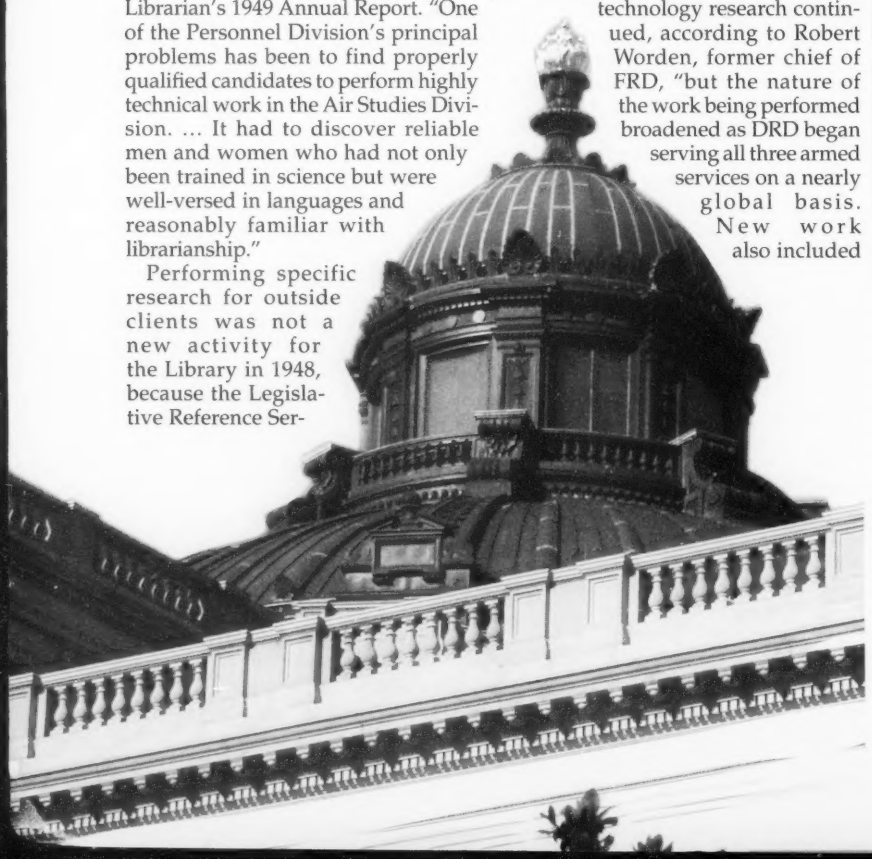
The work of the unit built up quickly. On July 22, 1948, it was made a full-fledged division—the Air Research Division—in the Reference Department (forerunner of today's Collections and Services Directorate). It was renamed again on Jan. 17, 1949, as the Air Studies Division, and by Sept. 30 of that year had a staff of 98 people. In addition to its services to the outside agencies, the division fulfilled a significant internal Library function: it paid for subject and descriptive catalogers who worked on the Slavic Union Catalog and on other materials of specific interest to the Air Force.

Recruitment for the new unit had not been easy, though, according to the Librarian's 1949 Annual Report. "One of the Personnel Division's principal problems has been to find properly qualified candidates to perform highly technical work in the Air Studies Division. ... It had to discover reliable men and women who had not only been trained in science but were well-versed in languages and reasonably familiar with librarianship."

Performing specific research for outside clients was not a new activity for the Library in 1948, because the Legislative Reference Service (now the Congressional Research Service) had been doing research exclusively for members of Congress since it was created in 1914. What was new about the Air Studies Division was the fact that it was providing direct services to an agency in the executive branch of the federal government on a fee-for-service basis, even though it was part of the legislative branch.

Additional responsibilities and separation of functions in 1951 led to a split of the Air Studies Division into two units: the Air Research Division and the Air Information Division, both still funded by the Air Force. The Air Information Division, which was renamed the Aerospace Information Division in 1962 and then the Aerospace Technology Division (ATD) in 1963, prepared abstracts and bibliographies of scientific and technical articles from foreign publications in the Library's collections. These were made available to industry and the scientific community through the Department of Commerce.

The Library's Air Research Division (later FRD) was renamed the Defense Research Division (DRD) on Sept. 10, 1963, after Air Force research requirements and funding were reassigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Its mission of performing science and technology research continued, according to Robert Worden, former chief of FRD, "but the nature of the work being performed broadened as DRD began serving all three armed services on a nearly global basis. New work also included 'quick response' work to assist DIA's 'crisis demands.'"

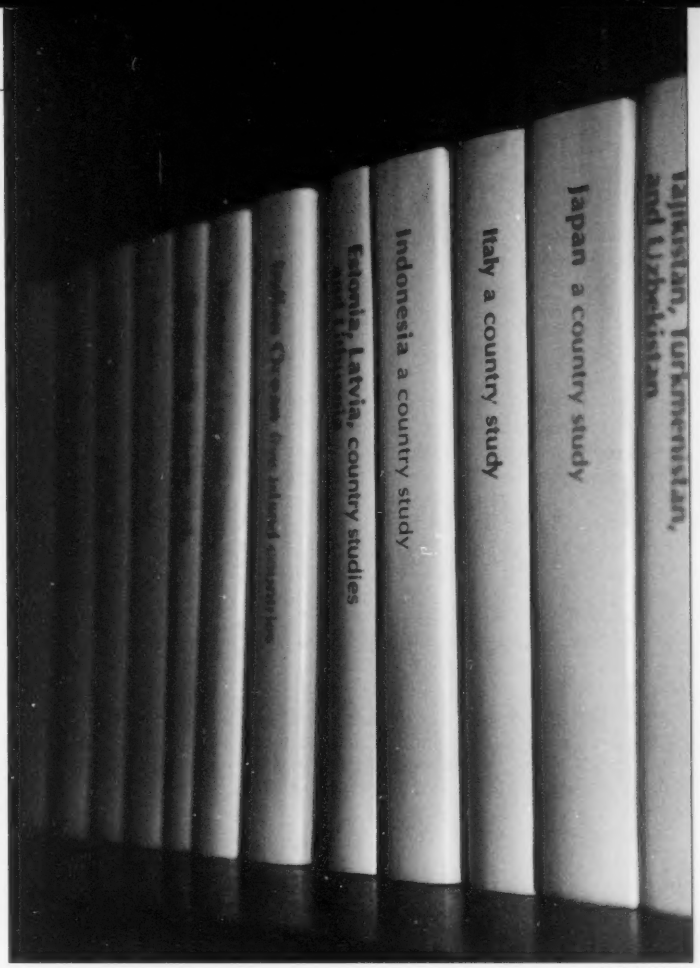


The other Library division funded by Defense, the Aerospace Technology Division, had continued its work of screening hundreds of scientific and technical journals and preparing abstracts of selected articles. ATD staff also prepared annotated bibliographies and state-of-the-art studies for the Defense Department as well as compiling specialized glossaries and dictionaries to facilitate translation efforts.

The two divisions thrived and expanded during the 1960s, and their staffs grew to the point that the two Library of Congress buildings on Capitol Hill became pressed for space to house them. ATD relocated to renovated offices in the upper deck areas of the Jefferson Building. DRD and several other Library units moved to rental space at 214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., several blocks away, in September 1967. By the end of fiscal year 1968, DRD had a staff of 229 people and a budget of almost $2.9 million.

All of this activity came to an abrupt halt in 1969-1970, when government-wide budget cuts caused a major reduction in force among the Library's reimbursable programs. The Defense Research Division survived, but the Aerospace Technology Division was abolished.

In 1970, the Defense Research Division was renamed the Federal Research Division, the name it still holds today, and strong efforts were undertaken to broaden its mandate and expand its client base to ensure its survival. Its staff had fallen from 279 to 113. New research programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Naval Scientific and Technological Information Center and the Environmental Protection Agency were undertaken in the following years, with a resulting resurgence in funding and staff for the division, which had relocated from Massachusetts Avenue to the Navy Yard in August 1982. New interagency agreements were also developed with several Department of Defense organizations during the early and mid-1980s, some of which involved classified research, and FRD took over the Army-funded Area Handbook/Country Studies Series program from American University in 1986.


Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
Japan a country study
Italy a country study
Indonesia a country study
Estonia, Latvia, country studies

Michaela McNichol

In the late 1980s, another monetary crisis hit FRD when the budget of the Defense Intelligence Agency was cut drastically. Again FRD's staff was cut, this time to 35 people, and the division began a vigorous marketing effort to expand its client base from two or three large defense sponsors to a mix of more medium-sized and small accounts. These included many of the executive departments as well as federal agencies such as Social Security, the Postal Service and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. This effort continues today.

In 1994, FRD moved from the Navy Yard to the Buzzard Point Annex at 1900 Half Street S.W. Asked how the division dealt with working in locations so far removed from the Library's collections, which the staff used heavily in their research, Worden wrote: "Offsite work sites were the norm for much of DRD/FRD's existence. … FRD funded a shuttle service and driver/courier to haul materials and people to and from FRD to the Library and to client agencies. There was always at least one person (sometimes more) assigned to an FRD enclave in Adams or Jefferson to fetch and charge books, serials, etc. Other FRD annex staff spent lots of their time roaming around the libraries of other agencies collecting materials, books, serials, maps and photos."

Sandra Meditz, head of FRD's Production and Management Support Section, added: "We did a lot of walking. I'm sure I was not alone in finding the walk across the Hill from Massachusetts Avenue enjoyable. I can't say the same for the walk from the Navy Yard Annex."

The Federal Research Division returned to the Adams Building on Capitol Hill in December 1996 with 45 staff members, almost 30 years after it had left in 1967. Soon after the move, bad budget news hit again. Revenue shortfalls in two successive years, 1997-1998, led to a downsizing of the staff to only 14 permanent employees, an all-time low. Research was carried on with extensive help from contract and overtime employees in other Library offices.

Unlike other units in the Library, FRD receives no appropriated funds. All of its functions are paid for with funds received as a result of agreements with other agencies, most of which are outside the Library. Passage of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000, which took effect on Oct. 1, 2001, has helped to stabilize the fiscal operations of the Federal Research Division. It gave FRD (and six other Library units, including FEDLINK, Retail Sales and Photoduplication) the authority to establish a revolving fund in the U.S. Treasury and to deposit funds transferred from other federal agencies without fiscal year limitation. This allows FRD to perform its research functions and to manage its finances on a more reliable basis, according to Worden. Funds transferred to the revolving fund remain on account until expended for current- and future-year research.

The Work of the Federal Research Division

As of fiscal year 2005, when it entered into an interagency agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the division has carried out research for every one of the federal government's Cabinet-level departments as well as many of the independent agencies of the executive branch.

"One of the most significant aspects of FRD is the scope of its activity," said David Osborne, head of FRD's Research Section. "We've done disability research, research on alien smuggling and human trafficking, histories of federal agencies and programs, and detailed country studies on more than a hundred nations around the world."

Also critical, according to Osborne, is the close association that FRD has had throughout its history with U.S. defense and intelligence agencies. Although the division no longer does classified research, some of its staff still have security clearances, can receive classified briefings and use classified documents for research offsite. Because of its foreign-language expertise and its long experience dealing with intelligence issues, the division is still an important player in the intelligence field, especially in dealing with open-source materials, Osborne said. Just over 50 percent of FRD's clients come from the defense and intelligence agencies.

All FRD researchers are required to be proficient in one or more foreign languages; their capabilities cover some 25 different languages, from Arabic, Bulgarian and Chinese to Hindi, Korean, Polish, and Serbo-Croatian. FRD analysts are trained in a wide range of disciplines, including area studies, social sciences, physical sciences, information science, and law. They work closely with other divisions in

the Library, especially the Law Library and other foreign area specialists, and make heavy use of the Library's foreign language collections. If a new project requires a skill that is not available in-house, FRD will hire an expert consultant to assist with the work.

Senior project managers oversee all of the work performed for outside agencies. They coordinate the overall effort, provide the principal interface with the agency, see that deadlines are met, and review the completed research, before handing over the product to the division's editorial staff for further review and editing. All of the work that FRD does is proprietary to the agency that requests it; it is given out to others or placed on the division's Web site only with the permission of the originating agency.

Federal Research Division Products

FRD's most recent catalog of studies and reports, "Access to a World of Information," includes a listing of more than 500 products it has prepared since 1974. It is one of the tools that Jane Garten, FRD's marketing liaison, uses to solicit new interagency agreements for the division.

Country Studies and Country Profiles

Funded by the U.S. Army from 1953 until 1998 for training of and use by military personnel overseas, the Country Studies Series presents a description and analysis of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national-security systems and institutions of countries throughout the world. In 1986, FRD took over the task of producing the country studies from American University. Published by the Government Printing Office, the country studies were the first works by FRD to receive broad public distribution. They were—and still are—extremely popular.

FRD has prepared more than 100 studies of countries all over the world, from Albania to Zaire. Most of them are online at **http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html**. The site averages approximately 500,000 searches per month, attesting to the series' popularity.

"The country studies are unique in the breadth and depth of analytical coverage they provide for a general audience in both the public and private sectors," said Sandra Meditz, who has directed the project since 1989.

The series is highly valued by the library community. At one time, almost all depository libraries selected this title to include in their collections, and the American Library Association lobbied hard to have the program continued when it became apparent in 1998 that the Army was going to discontinue it. The series has also been widely acknowledged by military commanders and policy makers as a reliable source of in-depth background information on areas of the world that are important and of growing interest to U.S. national security.

"In times of immediate need, copies of recently published or even draft manuscripts of country studies have been distributed to U.S. troops during overseas deployments," said Meditz.

Two more country studies—Cuba and a combined volume on the Dominican Republic and Haiti —were published in 2002, funded by the U.S. Southern Command. New funds were provided in the 2004 Defense Appropriations bill to continue the country series publication program at the urging of Rep. John Larson (D-Conn.), and five new studies were initiated by FRD (Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, North Korea and Sudan). They are all nearing completion. Unfortunately, the series has not received the continued annual funding envisioned, without which further updating of existing editions in the series will not be possible.

Related to the country studies are the country profiles – brief summaries on a country's historical background, geography, society, economy, transportation and telecommunications, government and politics, and national security. Introduced in 2005, approximately 50 country profiles are accessible online at **http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles.html**. The profiles are featured in the front matter of the published country studies volumes, but expanded versions are also prepared as stand-alone reference aids that can be updated online as needed.

POW/MIA Database

Under an interagency agreement with the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, FRD began developing the POW/MIA database in the early 1990s. Its purpose was to index and microfilm declassified documents relating to unaccounted-for Vietnam-era American personnel.

What began as a searchable database on a dedicated computer in the Computer Catalog Center in the Jefferson Building became an online database accessible on the Internet when the Library was searching for more content for its developing Web site.

"That was a huge innovation," said Osborne, "because those individuals who are interested in unaccounted-for Americans could research names, places, dates, etc. from anywhere and request the documents on microfilm through their local libraries. They no longer had to travel to the Library of Congress to use the database."

Each year FRD adds documents to this site, which averages about 30,000 searches a month. It can be found online at **www.loc.gov/rr/frd/powmia-home.html**.

Research Reports

A major report prepared by FRD, "Domestic Trends to the Year 2015: Forecasts for the United States," has been one of its most frequently requested studies since it was completed in 1991 (**www.loc.gov/rr/frd/domestic_trends.pdf**). Prepared by eight FRD specialists, the report analyzes trends and agents of change in the areas of demography, the economy, natural resources, education, technology, and geopolitics and threat. Many of its predictions have been borne out in the years since it was prepared.

A particularly apt forecast was made in that report by Osborne as one of the "key judgments" in the area of geopolitics and threat: "Former 'client' states, most of which are located in the developing world, are well-armed and equipped, and may pose security threats to the developed world. These potential regional hegemons will feel free to pursue their own goals. Recognizing that ideology, religion, and territory still play significant roles in relations between countries, the world is entering upon a very unsettled time."

In the aftermath of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, an FRD report prepared in 1999 came to the media's attention. "The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism: Who Becomes a Terrorist and Why?" predicted that such a horrific event might occur.

FRD author Rex Hudson had written: "Al-Qaida's expected retaliation for the U.S. cruise missile attack against al-Qaida's training facilities in Afghanistan on August 20, 1998, could take several forms of terrorist attack in the nation's capital. … Suicide bomber(s) belonging to al-Qaida's Martyrdom Battalion

US Department of Defense

In a report published two years prior to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Federal Research Division suggested that al-Qaida might strike at the U.S. by crashing an airplane into the Pentagon.

could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives (C-4 and semtex) into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), or the White House."

After 9/11, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington had asked FRD to put the three terrorism studies it had prepared on its Web site (with approval from the agencies that commissioned the reports). One of them was Hudson's report. Five months later, in May 2002, a reporter in Illinois picked up on it. It was not long before FRD's Web site was flooded with hits, and press inquiries started coming into the Library from around the world. The division suddenly found itself the subject of unprecedented media attention.

"The media reports on the division's study gained the attention of the White House, members of Congress, and key federal agency managers as well as network and cable news anchors, talk show hosts and others," noted the division's 2002 annual report. The heightened awareness of the division's capabilities had a positive side as well: it resulted in additional requests for research and analysis from other federal agencies. Fourteen reports that focus on terrorism and the connection among narcotics traffickers, terrorists and other extremist groups, and organized crime are now publicly available at **www.loc.gov/rr/frd/terrorism.html**.

Military Resources

The Federal Research Division's Military Legal Resources Web site was launched in 2003 at the request of the Army's Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School Library in Charlottesville, Va. The center acts as executive agent for the Department of Defense for military lawyers, judges and civilian authorities. The Web site (**www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/military-legal-resources-home.html**) is used heavily by military lawyers, legal journalists, legal scholars, and law professors, including those dealing with the invasion and occupation of Iraq and the detention and adjudication of prisoners, as well as by both the defense and prosecution of U.S. military personnel accused of crimes and misconduct. The site has become increasingly popular, recording almost 600,000 visits in February 2008, double that of the previous year.

Documents now on the site (totaling nearly 1,100) include historical documents from the Indian Wars, the Civil War, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars, as well as the Military Law Review (1958-2007) and The Army Lawyer (1971-2007). The condition of some of these early documents was quite poor, and FRD specialists Roberta Goldblatt and Katarina David had to work with them to make them text-searchable online. A comprehensive legislative history of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and selected historical editions of the Manual for Courts-Martial have also been added to the site by FRD over the years.

"I have often wanted, in the course of research on the Nazi regime, to peruse the German-language documents ... at length, but been deterred, except in a few vital cases, by the crumbling orange pages of the original volumes," wrote an American professor at the London School of Economics, complimenting FRD on its Military Legal Resources Web site. "But now these materials will be constantly and widely available. ... As an American living and working abroad, I often have reason to take pride in my country's institutions—but rarely more so than in the case of the Library of Congress."

"Over time," said David Osborne recently, "the FRD site has become known as a secure and 'neutral' location for agencies to make their reports available to the public. For example, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness opted to post the Military Compensation Background Papers, 6th edition, which we compiled, on the FRD site to avoid printing thousands of copies for distribution and to make it available to the world." It can be found on the Web at **www.loc.gov/rr/frd/mil-comp.html.**

US Department of Defense

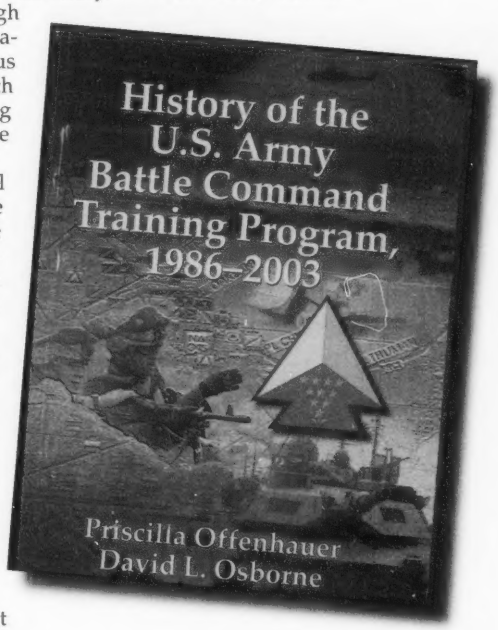
Civilian and military experts alike—including Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. commander in Iraq, above—have high praise for the Federal Research Division's work, including the "History of the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, 1986–2003," below.

A new publication, "History of the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, 1986-2003," was co-authored by FRD staff members Osborne and Priscilla Offenhauer. Published in 2007, the volume explains the development of the Army's program, which was created in 1987 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to use battle simulation to train commanders and their staff. It provides stressful and realistic combined-arms training in a rigorous combat environment.

To prepare the study, Offenhauer and Osborne visited Fort Leavenworth to view historical documents and observed a fighting exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga. They also interviewed veteran commanders of the Battle Command Training Program, including retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, current commander of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, praised the book, saying it was a significant contribution to the history of the Army. "Offenhauer's and Osborne's meticulous research takes the reader through the Battle Command Training Program's birth, growth, and ultimate validation on the battlefield, and this makes for a fascinating story," wrote Petraeus on the back cover of the volume. "Enormously rich in detail and written with a novelist's style, this narrative explains how the Battle Command Training Program has made, and will continue to make such an enormously positive impact on America's Army."

The Federal Research Division often contributes to larger studies for a federal agency, which was the case of their work last year for the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. Created by Congress in 2005, the purpose of the commission was to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations for the future. FRD did nine studies for the commission, all of them in 2007. They ranged from a look at historical attempts to reorganize the reserve components to comparisons of pay and benefits. The final report, "Commission on the National Guard and Reserves: Transforming the National Guard and Reserves into a 21st Century Operational Force," was made to Congress on Jan. 31, 2008. At the January press conference when the report was released, the chairman of the commission, Arnold Punaro, thanked the Library of Congress, as well as other agencies, for their assistance.



FRD Today

Today's Federal Research Division (FRD) is very much the offspring of the Air Research/Air Studies Division, but it has greatly expanded its client base over the years and is now on a more stable budgetary footing. In fiscal year 2007, for example, the division's total revenue was about $6 million, about half of which was budgeted for expenses during the year. This allowed about $3 million to be carried forward to fund its work in fiscal year 2008.

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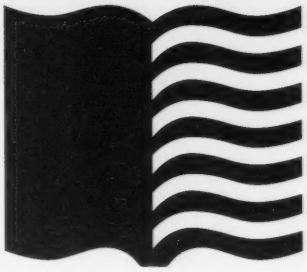


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IN THE NEWS

By ERIN ALLEN

The Library of Congress exhibition "Exploring the Early Americas" *(see Information Bulletin, January/February 2008)* and its signature artifact, the 1507 Martin Waldseemüller World Map, continued to make headlines throughout February.

Edward Rothstein of **The New York Times** reviewed the Library's exhibition and one at the Field Museum in Chicago with similar themes.

"One virtue of the [Library of Congress] exhibition is that it avoids the distortions of sentimental history. By illuminating multiple perspectives tempered by careful judgment, in which the achievements of past cultures are appreciated, the horrors of the conquest chronicled, and the legacy and subsequent interaction reflected in documents and maps, the complexities of the past become more apparent."

Frank Greve of **McClatchy News Service** interviewed John Hessler of the Library's Geography and Maps Division for a profile on the Waldseemüller map. Hessler recently penned the book "The Naming of America" about the map known as "America's birth certificate. Greve discussed the map's "high-tech protection" in an argon gas-filled glass case "just like the cases that hold the original Constitution and Declaration of Independence, but bigger."

Greve's story was syndicated to outlets including **The Miami Herald, Chattanooga Times Free Press, The State** (South Carolina), **The Lexington Herald Leader** (Kentucky), **Knight Ridder Washington Bureau, Centre Daily Times** (Pennsylvania), **The Kansas City Star, pantagraph.com** and **baltimoresun.com**.

• When it comes to naming items in its collections, the Library is hoping the public will help. The institution has launched a pilot project with Flickr, a popular Web-based photo sharing resource, to make a selection of its historical photographs available for tagging, comments and notes. *(See story on page 40.)*

According to Brian Braiker of **Newsweek.com**, the response has been "instantaneous and overwhelmingly positive. Within 24 hours of the project's launch, all 3,115 images had been viewed at least once (with 650,000 total views), more than 500 pictures had received comments, and 4,000 unique tags had been added." He added, "The [Library's] catalog is, of course, the property of We the People. So in a way it seems natural to tap into our aggregate wisdom to learn more about the pictures that define us," he said. **NPR** reporter Cyrus Farivar interviewed Flickr's George Oates, who expressed the egalitarian aspects of the project. "Having content from the Library of Congress just nestled amongst other photos from everyone else around the world creates a level playing field."

Matt Raymond, the Library director of communications, spoke with **Roll Call** reporter Emily Yehle about the initiative. "By catching the public's interest on popular sites [like Flickr], the Library can reel people into its own Web site and gain more interest."

Other outlets running news of the partnership included the **Chicago Tribune, Government Computer News, American Libraries, Library Journal, Arizona Daily Wildcat** (University of Arizona), **Lowell** (Mass.) **Sun, WUSA-TV9** (Washington) and Web sites **spokesmanreview.com, CNETnews.com, popphoto.com, cinemablend.com, computerworld.com, photodistrictnews.com, thejournal.com** and **webpronews.com**.

• In another January announcement, the Library named children's author Jon Scieszka as the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. *(See story on page 47.)* His books "The Stinky Cheese Man" and "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" have received much acclaim.

"I was just so honored when the Library of Congress and the Children's Book Council guys called me," Scieszka told Greg Toppo of **USA Today**. "I mean, at first I really did think they'd made some kind of mistake. But, I thought that was cool that they actually thought, 'Yeah, let's start this with a guy who writes funny stuff.'"

Walter Minkel, reporter for **School Library Journal**, said of Scieszka "With his good-natured wit and knack for knowing what kids need, [he] seems like the perfect guy for the challenge."

Scieszka told **Roll Call** reporter Jessica DaSilva that he is optimistic about sparking increased interest in children's literature and hopes to spread the message that children should be involved in selecting what they read, both at home and in school.

Other outlets running stories about Scieszka and his new national role in promoting literacy included **Time for Kids, Newsweek, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, School Library Journal, Voice of America, NPR, Newsday, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Seattle Times, Book Business Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Columbus Dispatch, Sacramento Bee** and Web sites **about.com** and **thebookstandard.com**.

• **Roll Call**'s DaSilva also ran a story on the Library's acquisition of the papers of civil rights activist James Forman. *(See story on page 38.)*

"James Forman Jr. said he vividly remembers walking up the white marble stairs of the Library of Congress with his father, who taught him about the importance of the Library," she reported.

Gloria Minot of **Pacifica Radio**'s Washington, D.C., affiliate interviewed Adrienne Cannon of the Manuscript Division who discussed the significance of the Forman collection. The story also ran in print and Web outlets such as **Michigan Chronicle, New York Amsterdam News, washingtonpost.com** and **DiverseEducation.com**. ◆

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

Michaela McNichol

James Forman Jr. chats with Librarian of Congress James Billington at the ceremony during which James Jr. gave the papers of his civil rights activist father, James Forman Sr., to the Library. Forman Jr.'s mother, Constancia Romilly, looks on.

James Foreman, Activist

Children Donate Civil Rights Leader's Papers

BY HELEN DALRYMPLE
AND GAIL FINEBERG

James Jr. and Chaka Forman gave the papers of their civil rights activist father, James, to the Library at a special ceremony in the Whittall Pavilion on Jan. 28. Their mother, Constancia Romilly, also attended the event, but Chaka Forman was not able to attend at the last minute because of illness.

"We are proud and grateful to remember this remarkable man," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington at the ceremony. "The James Forman Papers are a valuable addition to the Library's unrivaled resources for the study of the 20th-century Civil Rights Movement."

Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum said: "These papers will give the first-person account of what [the Civil Rights Movement] was like. ... Thank you for entrusting to us the custody of this collection that will serve such an important purpose."

Marcum went on to tell the story that James Jr. had related to her: that many organizations wanted the Forman papers, but it was always his father's wish that his papers should be housed at the Library of Congress.

"It was not at all a complicated decision," noted Forman Jr. "My father moved to Washington, D.C., in 1980. His office was in the United Methodist Building near the Supreme Court. When we were children, he brought us to the Library of Congress nearly every day while he was doing his research and writing. Here in this building [the Jefferson Building], he taught us to use the card catalog and later the computer catalog. He told us that this was our history, and it was always going to be here for us.

"So I want to say 'thank you' to the Library of Congress," James Jr. added.

Both Marcum and Forman also thanked Adrienne Cannon of the Manuscript Division for her work on the papers.

James Forman (1928-2005), executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) from 1961 to 1966, was instrumental in organizing many of the major civil rights campaigns of the era, including the 1963 March on Washington.

The Forman Papers—comprising approximately 70,000 items—chronicle his life and the important role he played in the Civil Rights Movement. The bulk of the collection dates from 1960. Included are letters, memoranda, diaries, speeches and other writings; notebooks, transcripts of interviews, subject files, scrapbooks, appointment books and photographs; and video and sound recordings.

Forman's activism is well-documented in the collection, particularly his tenure with SNCC and the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee (UPAC). His involvement in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Black Panther Party is also covered.

After serving in the Air Force at Okinawa during the Korean War, Forman graduated from Roosevelt University in Illinois in 1957. He pursued advanced studies in African affairs at Boston University, then returned to his

native Chicago to work as an elementary-school teacher and journalist.

An assignment to cover the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School for The Chicago Defender in 1958 ignited his interest in the burgeoning civil-rights movement. He became involved in CORE and the NAACP, and in 1961 he moved to Atlanta to serve as executive secretary for SNCC. From 1967–1969, he was director of SNCC's International Affairs Commission in New York.

Forman presented his "Black Manifesto" at the National Black Economic Development Conference in Detroit, where it was adopted in April 1969. The document called for reparations to African Americans for slavery and its legacy. In 1974, he founded the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee (UPAC), a nonprofit social action organization, and served as its president until 2003.

A prolific writer, Forman founded the Black America News Service and published numerous articles and pamphlets, as well as several books. These included "Sammy Younge, Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement (1968)"; "Liberation Viendra d'une Chose Noir" (1968); "The Political Thought of James Forman" (1970); "The Making of Black Revolutionaries" (1972); "Law and Disorder" (1972); "Self-Determination & the African-American People" (1981, revised 1984); "Self-Determination: An Examination of the Question & its Application to the African-American People" (1984); and "High Tide of Black Resistance and Other Political & Literary Writings" (1994).

Forman received a master's degree in African and Afro-American studies from Cornell University in 1980 and a doctorate from the Union of Experimental Colleges and Universities with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. After running unsuccessfully for Democratic Party Senator from the District of Columbia in support of statehood, he founded James Forman and Associates, a political consulting group. During the 1990s, he taught at American University, the University of the District of Columbia and Morgan State University in Baltimore.

The Library's Manuscript Division houses the most comprehensive civil-rights collection in the country, including the original records of the organizations that led the fight for civil liberties: the NAACP, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the National Urban League and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. The Library also has the microfilmed records of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, CORE and SNCC.

In addition to these organizational holdings, the collections of the Manuscript Division include the personal papers of other prominent civil-rights activists such as Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Arthur Spingarn, Moorfield Storey, Patricia Roberts Harris, Edward W. Brooke and Joseph Rauh. ◆

Helen Dalrymple is a retired Library staff member and former editor of the Library of Congress Information Bulletin. Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.

Library To Receive Donated Chinese Volumes

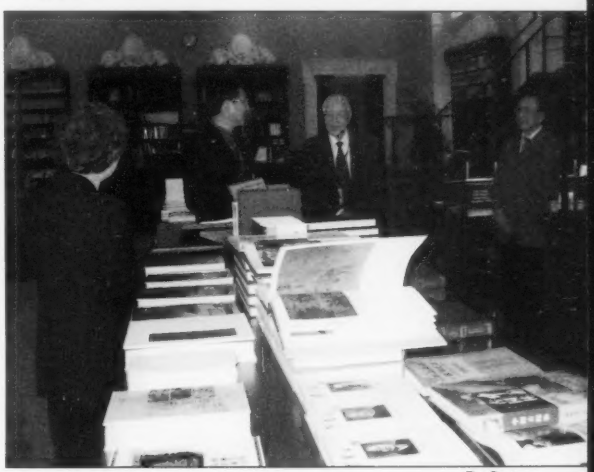
The Library of Congress has begun to receive donated books from the National Library of China through the Window of China Project. Founded in 2006, the Window of China Project donates books to national libraries and other institutions around the world.

Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum and Yan Xiandong of the National Library of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2008 to formalize the project. According to the agreement, the National Library of China will donate approximately 3,000 publications to the Library of Congress over the course of the project, which lasts through 2010.

Asian Division Chief Hwa-Wei Lee has provided the National Library of China with a list of selected titles. To date, the Library has received more than 2,000 books covering many subjects such as history, literature, archaeology, fine arts, travel and ethnic nationalities. The donated works have also included several lavishly illustrated albums manifesting the cultural abundance and diversity of the Chinese people.

To celebrate the Library's participation in this project, a ceremony was held on Feb. 12 in the Library's Asian Reading Room. A small selection of donated books was on display.

The year 2008 marks the 80th anniversary of the Library's Chinese Section. In 1928, Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam, with congressional approval, established the Division of Chinese Literature, the forerunner of the Chinese Section. The Chinese collection, which began in 1869 with a gift of 933 books from Chinese Emperor Tongzhi (1862-1874) as part of an exchange authorized by the Congress, now totals close to 1 million volumes. The collection is considered to be the largest and most comprehensive outside of China.



Tien Doan

At center, Minister Counselor of Culture Shu Xiao of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (left) reviews, with Asian Division Chief Hwa-Wei Lee, a selection of the books being donated from the National Library of China. Chinese Counselor Yang Jian, right, and Anna Ho of the Library's Chinese Acquisitions Team, foreground left, look on.

For more information about the Library's Asian collections go to **www.loc.gov/rr/asian/**. ◆

New Audience for Photos

Library in Pilot Program with Flickr Photo Service

The Library pilot program on Flickr includes selections from two of the Library's popular photo collections: color images from 1930s and '40s from the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information (FSA/OWI) collection, and 1910s-era pictures from the George Bain Collection.

By JOHN SAYERS

A Library patron examining Civil War-era images informs a Prints and Photographs (P&P) curator that two visually similar photos have radically different identifications. Hundreds of miles away, a woman and her father identify a photo shown on their favorite Web-based photo-sharing service as a shoe factory where the father worked as boy.

Two very different ways of examining Library photographs have one underlying theme: users of the Library's collections can play an important role in identifying assets, assisting curators and reference staff, and enhancing the overall user experience for their fellow researchers.

In the first example, a user of the Library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog raised questions about images that led curator Carol Johnson to discover three "new" glass negatives from Lincoln's second inauguration. *(See story on page 42.)*

The second example is the result of a new pilot project the Library has undertaken with Flickr, the enormously popular photo-sharing site and innovator in Web 2.0 functions (these include second-generation Web tools that emphasize online collaboration and sharing among users, such as social networking, wikis, communications tools and folksonomies). Besides robust photo-display tools, Flickr is known for allowing its users to describe their own and other photos through the practice of "tagging," or describing individual items with one or more descriptive terms.

The Library test entails loading 3,100 images from two popular P&P collections (color photos from the 1930s and 1940s from the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information collection and 1910s-era news photos from the Bain News Service) for which no copyright restrictions are known to exist. The pilot was set up with two goals: to give better and wider access to the collections to a new and appreciative audience, and to explore new ways to acquire the best possible information about these collections for the benefit of researchers and posterity.

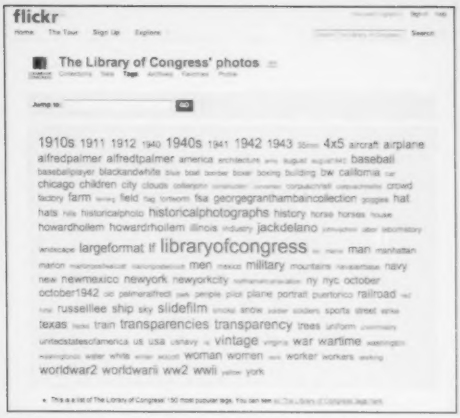
"P&P has long done a great job of giving the visual collections strong roots through cataloging, digitizing, reference, curatorial and collection-management services," said Helena Zinkham, acting chief of the Prints and Photographs Division. "With their new Flickr wings, our wonderful images can bring enjoyment to lots more people, including those who don't realize that libraries have historical photos."

For its part in the pilot, Flickr has created a new publication model for publicly held photographic collections called "The Commons" (**www/flickr.com/commons/**). While Flickr was started for creators of photos—and lets those creators indicate the rights to their photos from "All Rights Reserved" to a series of permissions for reuse—the new model allows for a new rights category on Flickr: "No known copyright restrictions." Flickr hopes its Commons project will also capture the imagination and involvement of other public institutions who serve as stewards of photos.

The pilot project team will continue to monitor the photos, how they are tagged, and the many ways they may be used. P&P staff will evaluate the comments and tags, not only to better identify image content, but also to establish best practices in collecting and evaluating their reference use. Flickr project manager George Oates joined Library project staff to discuss the pilot with Library staff at an overflowing presentation on Jan. 29, which can viewed online at **www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/.**

David Bransby

This 1942 photo of a worker at Vega Aircraft Corp., Burbank, Calif., has received dozens of user-generated tags from the Flickr community, from "B-17 Flying Fortress" to "war effort" to "working glamour," as well as comments on everything from the photo quality and color to the role of women in the workplace. Prints and Photographs Division


flickr
The Library of Congress' photos
1910s 1911 1912 1940 1940s 1941 1942 1943 4x5 aircraft airplane alfredpalmer alfredtpalmer america architecture baseball baseballplayer blackandwhite boy building bw california chicago children city clouds collegepoint crowd factory farm field fsa georgegranthambaincollection hat hats historicalphoto historicalphotographs history horse horses house howardhollem howardtholem illinois industry jackdelano landscape largeformat libraryofcongress man manhattan marion men mexico military mountains navy new newmexico newyork newyorkcity ny nyc october october1942 people pilot plane portrait puertorico railroad russelllee ship sky slidefilm smoke snow soldier soldiers sports street texas train transparencies transparency trees uniform unitedstatesofamerica us usa usnavy vintage virginia war wartime washington water white winter women work worker workers worldwar2 worldwarii ww2 wwii york

The Library's "tag cloud" on Flickr to date includes the 150 most popular user-defined tags, with larger words indicating wider use. All 3,100 photos were tagged "Library of Congress" by the Library when uploaded.

Both the Library and the Flickr teams were overwhelmed by the initial response, reflected in the headline of Flickr's day-after blog post: "Wow."

"It's especially gratifying to be able to celebrate our dual roles," said Zinkham. "We make the collections shine through our own skill and experience, while also broadening public participation in developing access and knowledge for historic photos through Flickr."

More information on the pilot project can be found at **www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_pilot.html.**

Overwhelming Response

On the same day the new Lincoln negatives were announced, the pilot team quietly launched the two collections on Flickr (**www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/**). The Library publicized the project on its blog (**www.loc.gov/blog/?p=233**) as did Flickr (**http://blog.flickr.net/2008/01/16/**). The teams sat back and watched, curious about what the photo-sharing network and the broader blogging community might make of all this.

The response was staggering.

By the end of the first day, according to Flickr's blog (**http://blog.flickr.net/en/2008/01/17/wow/**), users "added over 4,000 unique tags across the collection (about 19,000 tags were added in total; for example, "Rosie the Riveter" has been added to 10 different photos)."

Dozens of e-mails were received from grateful users, often simple one-line greetings, from "Thank you," to "I LOVE what you are doing," to "You guys rock!" Other users were more specific: "This is one of the smartest things the federal government has done." "I never would have accessed these photos under different circumstances, and I am very excited to go through them." "This is also a great use of my taxpayer dollars, and I dearly hope that the postings are expanded as time allows."

In a blog post on Day Two of the pilot, Library Director of Communications Matt Raymond observed, "The response ... has been nothing short of astounding. You always hope for a positive reaction to something like this, but it has been utterly off the charts—from the Flickr community, from the blogosphere, from the news media—it is nothing short of amazing."

By the end of the first week, the Library's photos on Flickr generated 3 million page views. More than 7,000 Flickr account owners added the Library as a contact, the equivalent of having the institution on their personal lists as a "friend." Just under a third of the 3,100 photos generated comments, and more than two-thirds have been noted by at least one user as a "favorite."

Outside of the Flickr community, leading bloggers have been equally effusive. More than 1,600 posts, including opinion-leading blogs such as Boing Boing, TechCrunch, Life Hacker, Mashable, Read/Write Web, Instapundit, Search Engine Land, Internet Marketing News, Laughing Squid, Wired's Compiler, LAist, Foundation and Open Culture have praised the Library for its innovative partnership and speculated at its potential.

Mainstream media have also been complimentary, from NPR to Roll Call to Newsweek.com. *(See story on page 37.)* The images have even inspired creativity, from storytelling based on the photos to a YouTube video tribute to the project, "Flickr & Library of Congress: It's a Beautiful Thing" at **www.youtube.com/watch?v=c01IjWBhilQ**. ◆

Rediscovering Lincoln

'New' Images of Gettysburg, Second Inaugural, Identified in Library Collections

Nearly 200 years after his birth, Abraham Lincoln remains a hot topic for historians, schoolchildren and Civil War buffs alike. With only about 130 photographs of the 16th president known to exist, the discovery of previously unknown Lincoln photos is cause for celebration. Such was the case with the recent discovery at the Library of Congress of "new" images of Lincoln at Gettysburg and at his second inauguration.

Lincoln at Gettysburg

In November, amateur historian and Civil War enthusiast John Richter found several interesting images among the treasure trove of photographs digitized and accessible on the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. He identified them as images of Lincoln at Gettysburg for the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery on Nov. 19, 1863. The stereographs (a photographic technique popular during the Civil War, which required a special viewer to appear in 3-D) show a figure on horseback believed to be a white-gloved Lincoln in his trademark stovepipe hat, participating in a military procession. They are believed to have been taken by Alexander Gardner (1821-1882).

"This find doubles the number of apparent images of Lincoln at his greatest moment," said Bob Zeller, president of the Center for Civil War Photography, who is convinced of the photographs' authenticity.

The images can be viewed by searching "Lincoln at Gettysburg" on the Library's Prints and Photographs Catalog at **www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html** and selecting the images of the dedication ceremony at Soldiers' National Ceremony. Direct links to the images can be found at **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/pnp/cwpb.00652** and **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.17806**.

Second Inauguration

In January, details of Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration come into clearer focus with the discovery at the Library of Congress of three glass negatives that show the large crowd gathered at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., for the president's address on March 4, 1865.

These negatives had been labeled long ago as being either the Grand Review of the Armies or the inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant. Carol Johnson, a curator of photography at the Library of Congress, spotted the misidentification while checking old logbooks and finding the annotation "Lincoln?" in the margin. Only two other photos of Lincoln's second inauguration were previously known, but a careful visual comparison confirmed that these three negatives portray the same event.

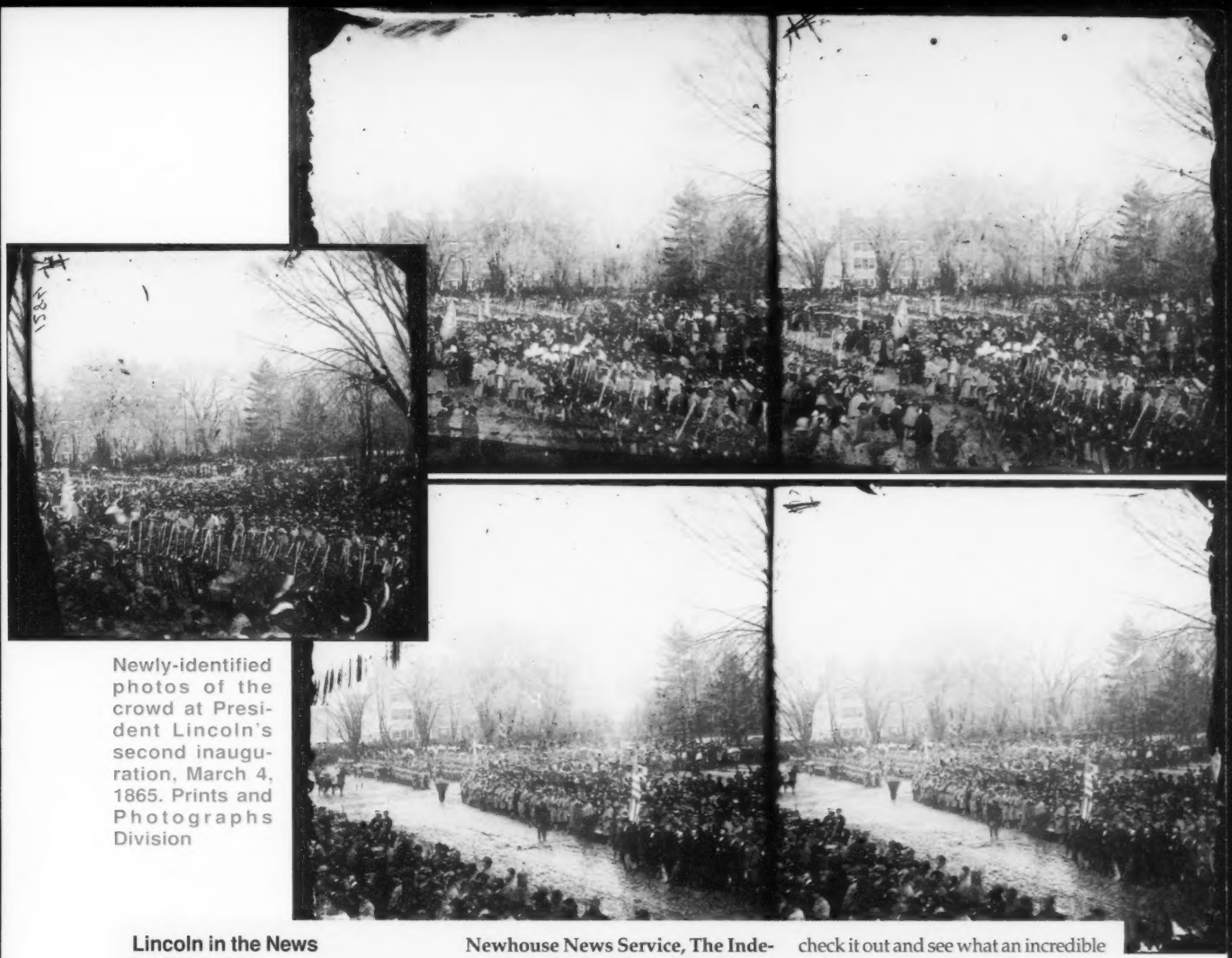
"These negatives add to our knowledge of this special event," said Johnson. "They show what that wet Saturday looked like with the massing of the crowd. They also convey the excitement of the people."

Johnson was prompted to examine the negatives after an online researcher in Colorado alerted her to the fact that these visually similar photos had radically different identifications in the Library's online Civil War photographic negative collection. But instead of choosing between Grant and the Grand Armies Review, she opened a new door to the past by looking closely at the images and recognizing Lincoln's second inauguration. The Library's Prints and Photographs Division has updated the catalog records with the correct bibliographic information.

Below are links to the photographs:

- Soldiers and crowd: **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cwpb.01430**
- Soldiers lining up: **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cwpb.00601**
- Soldiers lined up: **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cwpb.00602**
- People arriving (previously known image used for comparison): **http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsc.02927**

continued on page 47



Newly-identified photos of the crowd at President Lincoln's second inauguration, March 4, 1865. Prints and Photographs Division

Lincoln in the News

By ERIN ALLEN

The unearthing of never-before-seen images of the 16th president was a popular story with the media.

"I noticed there were three negatives from the dedication that were taken close together," John Richter told **Washington Post** reporter Linda Wheeler about the images of Lincoln at Gettysburg. "That stuck me as odd because of the difficulty and cost of taking pictures back then. I also noticed the camera was not pointed at the stand but more toward the right. I zoomed in, and that was when I saw the figure."

Richter unveiled the finds at the annual Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg. "A new photograph of Lincoln is very precious and very rare," Harold Holzer told Wheeler. Holzer is vice chairman of the forum and a leading authority on Lincoln.

Also running stories on Richter's find were **USA Today, CNN, CBS, Newhouse News Service, The Independent, Patriot News** (Harrisburg, Pa.), **The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Times of Trenton** (New Jersey) and Web sites such as **eveningsun.com** and **foxnews.com**.

Lincoln was in the news again in January when another online researcher noted three glass negatives on the Library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog, which he identified as a large crowd gathered at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., for Lincoln's second inaugural address on March 4, 1865.

"These photos matched [Lincoln's inauguration] perfectly," said Carol Johnson, curator of photography, who spoke with **Los Angeles Times** reporter Johanna Neuman about the previously mislabeled images.

Kyra Philips of **CNN**, who has used the Library's online photo archive, called it "pretty awesome." She added, "It's an incredible resource … You need to go to the Library of Congress and check it out and see what an incredible archive system we've got."

Print and Web media running stories included **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, St. Paul Pioneer Press** and **YubaNet.com**. Television coverage about the inaugural photos included **NBC's Today Show** and **The Late Show with David Letterman**.

On President's Day, Feb. 18, **National Public Radio's "Morning Edition"** aired an interview with Johnson that was taped at the Library. "This is the first time that African-American troops had marched in an inauguration," Johnson pointed out to reporter Kitty Eisele. Said Eisele, "What I know when I look at these faces is what this crowd does not: That in one month, the war will be finished, but five days after that, Lincoln himself will be dead at an assassin's hand." ◆

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

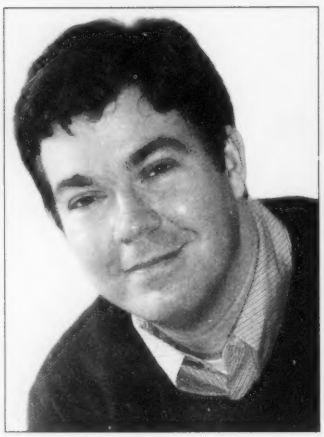
'Hip, Savvy ... Unpredictable'

Poet Laureate Introduces Witter Bynner Poets

By DONNA URSCHEL

U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic hailed the 2008 Witter Bynner fellows as young poets who are "hip, savvy, smart, imaginative and, consequently, completely unpredictable in their poetry. They're also very good."

The two poets, Matthew Thorburn, a business-development writer, and Monica Youn, an attorney and creative-writing professor, both from New York City, accepted their fellowships at a Library of Congress reading on March 6. They each received a $10,000 award, provided by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry in conjunction with the Library of Congress.



2008 Witter Bynner fellows Matthew Thorburn and Monica Youn read from their work at the Library March 6.

Every year the U.S. Poet Laureate selects poets of distinction who are not yet widely known for the Witter Bynner fellowships. The award program is in its 11th year.

"It's always nice to give out money," Simic told the audience. "Sometimes reporters will ask me 'who are these angels who give out money to unknown poets?' They can't figure it out, and neither can I. They are really angels. What generosity! What a terrific idea!"

When he introduced the fellows, Simic said, "I like poets who have read everything. Well, give the impression they have read everything, at least read poetry written in the last 150 years. I like poets whose attitude is critical and downright irreverent."

Simic then described what he liked about Thorburn and Youn. "Thorburn's first book, 'Subject to Change,' is really terrific," said Simic. "The titles of his poems are pure delight – 'Portrait of Former Lovers in the Spare Style of the Past Century,' 'For Friends Who Are Married and Expecting More Babies' and 'The Critics Interrupt Their Interpretations of 'Un Chat en Hiver' for a French Lesson.'"

Simic explained, "Thorburn has some of that playfulness of Wallace Stevens, and what I really admire about Thorburn is that he can do a lot of different things well. His poems are wry, surprising, jovial and a little mysterious. He's a superb poet of love and writes about family and friends." Simic described Thorburn's poems as "distinctive, intimate and, above all, memorable. Despite all that, they're well-constructed."

Thorburn is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the MFA program at The New School in New York City. He works as a business-development writer for an international law firm in New York. His poems have appeared in "The Paris Review," "Poetry," "The American Poetry Review" and other journals. From 2000 to 2004, Thorburn founded and co-edited the poetry journal Good Foot. His work has been recognized with the Mississippi Review Prize and the Belfast Poetry Festival's inaugural Festivo Prize.

At the event, Thorburn read 14 poems, six from his book "Subject to Change" (2004) and the rest from a new manuscript called "Like Luck." An unusual piece from "Subject to Change" was a prose poem in three parts titled "Variations:"

1.
The hills fall away to a shallow gully, bent reeds yellow and green, and so there must be a hint of water there.

or

In the Tuileries women wear scarves against the brisk fall morning, don't linger long. But the flowers still bloom. Oranges, reds: heart-colored possibilities.

or

I see in its leaving why you loved
the light.

In describing Youn, Simic said, "She is a skeptical, intelligent, high-spirited voice, alert and sharp. She is engaged by everything from Korean history to the subjugation of women and the torture of children and the history of a comic strip."

Simic added, "What she does is take the lyric poem beyond its traditional form and re-invent it, and in the process she reminds us what imagination and playfulness can accomplish in poetry."

Youn is an attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law and an adjunct assistant professor of creative writing at Columbia University. She is the author of "Barter" (2003). Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including the "Norton Anthology: Language for a New Century." She earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton, a master's of philosophy from Oxford and a law degree from Yale.

Youn is working on a second volume of poetry titled "Ignatz," which is based on "Krazy Kat," the classic comic strip created by George Herriman that ran in U.S. newspapers from 1913 to 1944. In the strip, a naïve cat is crazy in love with a disagreeable mouse called Ignatz. "There's a goofy desperation to the way love is portrayed," Youn said.

continued on page 44

Diversity Comes of Age

Anchorman: Race No Longer Matters So Much

By GAIL FINEBERG

Diversity is arriving soon with the coming-of-age of a younger generation for whom matters of race and gender are irrelevant, ABC/WJLA-TV anchorman Leon Harris said in off-the-cuff remarks to an audience of middle-aged Library staffers gathered in the Mumford Room on Tuesday, Feb. 12, for his African American History Month presentation.

"Diversity is coming," Harris announced. "It's going to come whether you are prepared or not."

He described the excitement of throngs of young people trying to get into T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., the previous Sunday night to see and hear Sen. Barack Obama, whose presidential campaign appeal for national unity seems to transcend race, gender, age, education, socio-economic class and other demographics of interest to pollsters.

"The crowds were ridiculously enthusiastic and ridiculously large, between 10,000 and 12,000," said Harris, who was assigned to interview Obama after the speech for a 30-minute WJLA broadcast.

Harris said he was mobbed by kids wanting tickets to get in. "'Hey man, you got tickets? Surely you got tickets.' Since when do scalpers sell tickets to political events? These were 12-to-15-year-olds, white kids and black kids, who wanted to buy tickets to hear a politician give a speech."

"This moment is a moment in history that probably Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950, the father of Black History Month) would never have dreamed he would see," Harris said. "This is not just a black man running for the nomination, but he is running against a woman."

To further illustrate his point that race is becoming a nonissue, he reported a recent exchange with his young son, who was getting ready for a date "with a young woman with an exotic name."

"Where's she from?" asked father Harris.

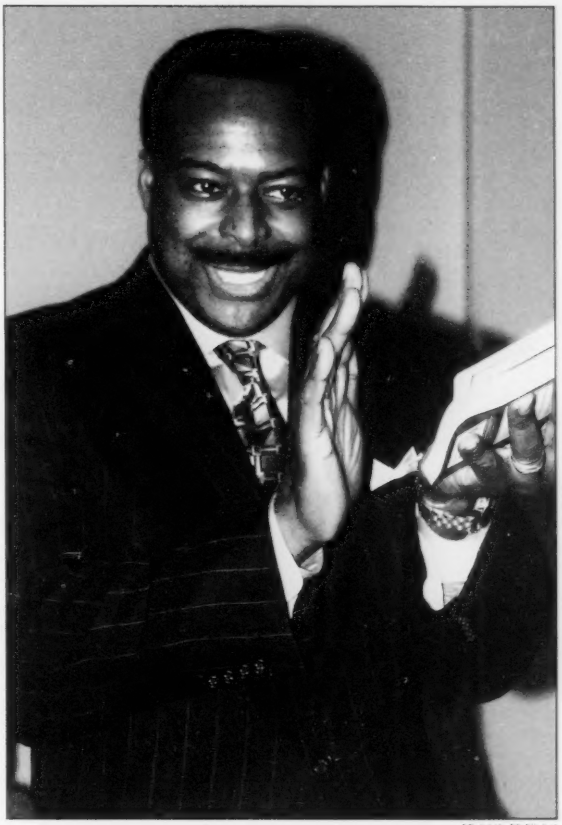
"She's from Maryland. What's it matter? Dad, what's wrong with you?"

"I just wanted to know what she looks like."

"She looks fine when she's with me," his son retorted.

For Harris, the assignment to interview Obama was a welcome break from the WJLA studio in which he anchors weekday newscasts at 5 and 11 p.m. and co-hosts Capital Sunday, which requires late-night researching and writing in preparation.

An award-winning CNN reporter in Atlanta for more than 22 years before coming to Washington about six years ago, he misses the excitement that came from the chance to report on the top stories of the day—Sept. 11 terror strikes, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Asian Tsunami of 2004, the explosion and crash of TWA Flight 800 and the Los Angeles riots. His reports won commendations and awards, including Emmy awards and multiple Cable Ace awards for Best Newscaster.



Michaela McNichol

WJLA anchorman Leon Harris

After pleading with his WJLA boss to be let "outside" ("I'm not a house dog. I'm a yard dog."), he drew the Obama assignment after Sen. Hillary Clinton had agreed to be interviewed the same length of time in the studio.

An old hand at covering national politics for CNN, he had interviewed presidential candidates, and reported live from both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Harris shared one question he asked both Clinton and Obama in confidence: "What happens if the superdelegates get to Denver [for the Democratic National Convention] and make a deal in a back room, and you-know-who gets it? You know what that would mean—the "d" word—disenfranchisement. That would destroy the unity of this country. In other words, would you be willing to be the person to heal this country, even if it means losing the nomination?"

The unequivocal answer, he said, was: "Absolutely."

Asked whom he would endorse for the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, Harris responded that he endorses no one, and he does not even vote in an effort to remain objective in his treatment of the political candidates he covers.

Then he thought for a moment and said: "However, if my mother were to die, I would want Obama to deliver the eulogy and Clinton to serve as executor of the estate." ◆

Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.

News from the Center for the Book

National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Takes Center Stage

By JOHN Y. COLE

On Jan. 3, 2008, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington appointed noted children's author Jon Scieszka (pronounced SHEH-ska) as the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. The announcement, which was made before two classes of elementary school students seated on the floor at New York Public Library's Mulberry Street branch, generated instant excitement that has not subsided: The author of "The Stinky Cheese Man" is a huge hit.

"The Library of Congress has long provided free, primary-source educational material for K-12 on the Internet," Billington noted. "This new position is a natural extension of that role. Jon Scieszka will be an articulate emissary, promoting reading and literature among young people."

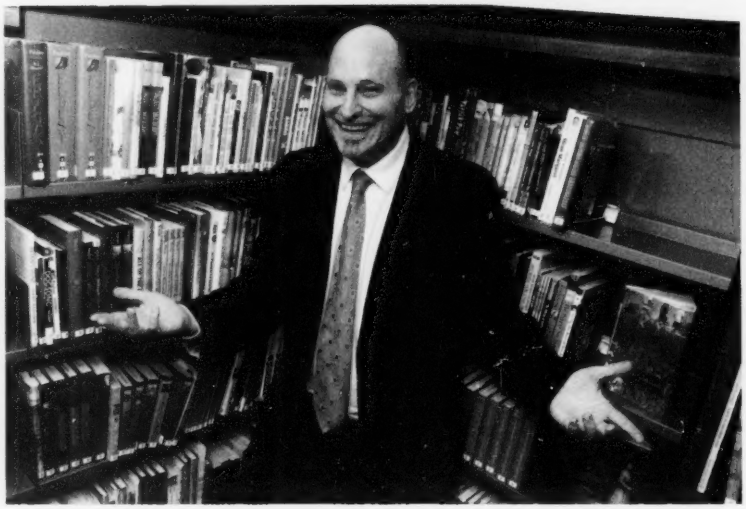
"The position was created by the Center for the Book and the Children's Book Council to promote books and reading for young people nationally and in new and innovative ways," said Robin Adelson, executive director of the Children's Book Council. "Jon's platform during his two-year term spotlights the diversity and breadth of books available to young people today and the need for kids themselves to choose what they want to read."

Scieszka introduced himself in a Jan. 27 op-ed piece in the New York Daily News.

"Kids are reading less and getting worse at it. So the Library of Congress and the Children's Book Council have created a new position and named our first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. That's me—the guy with the impossible-to-pronounce last name … And my new job is to get our kids jazzed about reading."

In the editorial and subsequent talks, he presented four tips "learned from 20 years of teaching, writing and listening to kids who weren't too crazy about reading."

- Let the readers choose what they like and want to read.



Jon Scieszka has been named 2008 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

- Expand the definition of "reading" to include nonfiction, humor, graphic novels, magazines, action adventure and Web sites.
- Be a good reading role model.
- Avoid demonizing television, computer games and new technologies.

Born in Flint, Mich., Scieszka earned a bachelor's degree in writing from Albion College and a master of fine arts degree from Columbia University. He held a number of teaching positions in the first through eighth grades before taking a year off to develop ideas for children's books. He is the author of several bestselling children's titles, including his Caldecott award-winning "The Stinky Cheese Man," "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" and the Time Warp Trio, a chapter book series. He is the founder of Guys Read (**www.guysread.com**), a nonprofit literacy organization.

The National Ambassador for Young People's Literature is named by the Librarian of Congress for a two-year term, based on recommendations from a selection committee representing many segments of the book community. The selection criteria emphasize the candidate's contribution to young people's literature, ability to relate to children, and experience and effectiveness in dealing with the media.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Children's Book Council (CBC) and the CBC Foundation are the administrators of the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature initiative. The CBC, one of the Center for the Book's national reading-promotion partners, proposed the basic idea to the center in the fall of 2006; it was approved by Billington in the spring of 2007.

As National Ambassador, Scieszka receives a $50,000 stipend for his two-year term. Financial support for the program is provided by leading sponsor Cheerios, and the following publishers: Penguin Young Readers Group; Scholastic, Inc.; HarperCollins Children's Books; Random House Children's Books; Houghton Mifflin Company; Macmillan Publishers; Harcourt Children's Books; Holiday House; Charlesbridge; National Geographic

Children's Books; Candlewick Press, and Marshall Cavendish Publishers.

A drawing for a library visit from Scieszka took place on Jan. 12 in the Library's exhibit booth at the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association in Philadelphia. Nearly 300 conference attendees entered the contest, submitting their names and requests for the new National Ambassador to visit their institutions.

The lucky winner was Janet Sarrett, a retired school media specialist from South Carolina who in her 35-year career served on several committees in all three of the American Library Association's youth divisions: the American Association for School Libraries (AASL), the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Sarrett selected Spartanburg County Public Libraries in Spartanburg, S.C., as the host institution for Scieszka's visit on March 5-7, 2009. He will be the featured speaker at the library's annual Jamboread celebration, an event held in cooperation with many other South Carolina library organizations, including the South Carolina Center for the Book.

Scieszka, who was a featured author at the first National Book Festival in 2001, will participate in the 2008 National Book Festival on Sept. 27. Other scheduled appearances in his role as the inaugural National Ambassador for Young People's Literature include National Children's Book Week in New York City in May and the Miami International Book Festival in November. For further information contact the Center for the Book at **cfbook@loc.gov**. ◆

John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book.

FRD

continued from page 36

FRD currently employs a staff of 60, including about 20 people in permanent positions as well as contractors and temporary workers.

A number of factors have come together in the past few decades to make the work of the Federal Research Division much more widely known than it was in the past. The first was FRD's assumption of responsibility for producing the Country Studies Series and the second was the availability of FRD's products on Internet.

"The division's Web site at **www.loc.gov/rr/frd/** is now probably its most effective marketing tool, with some of its most popular products accessed hundreds of thousands of times each year," said Jeremy Adamson, chief of the Collection and Services Directorate in Library Services.

"The Internet has definitely put the Federal Research Division before the public in a way that was not possible in years past," said Osborne. "Both the country studies and the POW/MIA database were very popular in the 1990s. Today the studies and the various other online products have kept FRD in the public eye more than in its previous four or five decades of service." ◆

Helen Dalrymple is a retired Library employee and the former editor of the Library of Congress Information Bulletin.

Lincoln

continued from page 42

Lincoln Online

The Library's Manuscript Division holds the papers of 23 U.S. presidents, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. Comprising 20,000 items, the Abraham Lincoln Papers are accessible online at **http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html**.

Drawn from the Lincoln papers, the Library's American Memory online presentation "I Do Solemnly Swear" offers a special look at presidential inaugurations, including Lincoln's first and second inaugural addresses (**http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pi022.html**). Lincoln's second inaugural address, coming just a few weeks before the end of the Civil War, contained such stirring phrases as: "... With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds ..."

Lincoln's immortalization in song is the subject of another online Library presentation titled "We'll Sing to Abe Our Song!": Sheet Music about Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Civil War" (**http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/scsmhtml/scsmhome.html**). Drawn from the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana in the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the presentation includes more than 200 sheet-music compositions that represent Lincoln and the war as reflected in popular music. The collection spans the years from Lincoln's presidential campaign in 1859 through the centenary of Lincoln's birth in 1909.

This music was compiled by Alfred Whital Stern (1881-1960), who is considered the greatest private collector of materials relating to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Stern presented his collection to the Library in 1953 and it continues to grow through an endowment established by his family. Today, the Alfred Whital Stern Collection comprises more than 11,000 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, prints and posters as well as a variety of ephemera. ◆

Poetry

continued from page 44

Youn read 13 poems about Ignatz from her upcoming book. Some of the titles included, "Letter to Ignatz," "The Wedding of Ignatz," "Ignatz Infers," "Ignatz Pop Quiz," "Invisible Ignatz," and "Ignatz Domesticus." She also read four poems from her first book "Barter."

The last poem she read was called "Ending" and contained only seven words:

Freshwater stunned the beaches.
I could sleep.

For further information on Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, the fellowships and the poetry program at the Library of Congress, visit the Library's Poetry Web site at **www.loc.gov/poetry/**. ◆

Donna Urschel is a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

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